

Questions and Answers Recreation

ATVs

Are there state or county off-road vehicle permits? Also is it legal to ride ATV's in management areas off season?

There are not any state or county off-road permits that we are aware of. If you own a dirt bike or ATV, you must title it through your local tag office to ride on state or federal lands in Florida.

ATV operation on District land is not permitted except during Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission regulated mobility-impaired hunts.

The attached website details where it is legal, currently, to ride ATV's in Florida.
<http://www.floridaohv.org/>

If you have any further questions contact the OHV Statewide Committee. Their information is also on the web site.

Is bicycling permitted on levee L-35B, starting from the access on Sawgrass Expressway just west of Southgate Boulevard?

The District encourages public use of its canals and water storage areas for outdoor recreational activities consistent with their suitability for maintaining environmental sensitivity. Hiking and bicycling are two uses that are generally acceptable on levees, so no special permission would be needed. Signs showing permitted and non-permitted activities are often posted at public use access points.

BOATING, LAKES & NAVIGATION

Is traveling the canal from Lake Kissimmee to Lake Okeechobee possible and safe?

The restored section of the Kissimmee River rises and falls as it did historically. And the end of May can be the driest time of the year. This year, however, the Kissimmee River levels have stayed above normal. Based on water level readings north and south of the restored section of the river, there should be ample water to navigate it today. However, if May is as dry as it can be, the levels in the river could fall, restricting navigation.

You can go [on-line](#) and look at the elevation at S-65C, which is a water control structure located about 700 yards south of where the restored section of the river flows back into the channelized river, and Weir 1, which is at the northern end of the restored section. If the headwater (upstream) side of S-65C is above 35.4 feet, and the elevation at Weir 1 is at 40 feet or more you should have enough water to navigate, assuming your boats drafts about 3 feet. You should use caution and motor

carefully. You may have to trim your motor up. The rest of the river should not be a problem. Assuming that the vertical clearance of your boat is less than 10 feet, which will allow you to get under all bridges. The channelized Kissimmee River is pretty straight, 300 feet wide and 30 feet deep, so you should be able to make good time. The restored section is about 15 miles in length. The river meanders and the depths vary.

In all, it's about 60 miles from River Ranch to Lake Okeechobee. You should be able to scoot right along in the channeled Kissimmee River, but we would encourage you to take it slow and cautious in the 15-mile restored section. The only other area of potential concern is the section beginning about six miles south of S-65A, where three weirs were put in place as part of the research that preceded the Kissimmee River Restoration. The weirs are about six, seven and nine miles south of S-65A. At these three weirs, just use caution and follow the signs. You should be able to travel through the weirs without any problem.

For Additional Information:

Orlando Service Center

1707 Orlando Central Parkway, Suite 200
Orlando, FL 32809
(407) 858-6100

CAMPING

We are interested in tent camping at KICCO. What do we need to do?

You will need [Special Use License](#) and also to check if the dates conflict with the hunt dates in the area.

We are interested in hosting a camp site area. Are there any positions are available?

We have camp ground host program at DuPuis Management Area and one at Kissimmee Area north of Okeechobee. Contact Bert Trammel at btramme@sfwmd.gov or Jeff McLemore at jmclemo@sfwmd.gov for openings.

FISHING

Is there any information on fishing boat ramps?

The Platts Bluff ramp in Okeechobee County puts you on the Kissimmee River with lots of possibilities. Many of these lands are protected by the Save Our Rivers (SOR) program. Holiday Park in Broward County, plus the other ramps along Highway 27 and out Alligator Alley will keep you fishing for a bit. If you need more excitement try Stick Marsh, another Save Our Rivers project, near Fellsmere see: www.floridaswater.com/recreationguide/index.html

The best source for this kind of information is the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, who manage most public lands in terms of fisheries. They

have a web site at http://www.myfwc.com/RECREATION/boat_FreshwaterRamps.htm and http://www.myfwc.com/RECREATION/FW_index.htm which you should find helpful.

What is the status of Holey Land?

Holey Land Wildlife Management Area is managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC). Contact Mike Anderson at (561) 625-5122 for any questions on Holey Land.

GEOCACHING

Is it still necessary to notify the district of the location of geocache places on district public lands? If so, what are the proper channels to do this?

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD/District) encourages the appropriate use of lands that are open for public recreation and has no objections to the utilization of these lands for geocaching. However, persons considering locating geocaches on District lands need to obtain permission to locate a geocache site. They should be aware that these lands are subject to a number of land management activities, which may include, but are not limited to: Prescribed Burning, Roller-chopping, Shredding, Mowing, Flooding, and Herbicide Application. Due to the nature of these activities, the SFWMD can assume no responsibility for damage that may occur to geocaches and/or their contents. Please keep in mind the potential for these activities when locating your caches. And please be aware that digging and the cutting of vegetation are prohibited activities on District lands. All access to and from geocache sites should be through designated access points. As with other recreational activities on District lands, you are asked to observe all rules and regulations. On certain District lands where other agencies may be the lead land manager, then their policies concerning geocaching would apply. To apply for a geocache site on South Florida Water Management District (District) land, please use the [Geocache Site Application form](#) for the Land Management Area where the Geocache is to be located.

HIKING

I would like to obtain maps and brochures relating to hiking and trails available in the Kissimmee and Central Florida area. This would be for walking and picture taking only and would not include any camping and/or overnight stays.

District sites with hiking trails have maps, along with some hiking trail maps. Please select Recreational Opportunities, then select hiking. A list of sites with hiking activities will display. You can also visit the Florida Trail Association web page, which will provide you information on hiking trails in the area <http://www.florida-trail.org/>

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HUNTING

Is there any information on hunting on District lands?

Hunting activities on SOR lands are managed by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. The information you are seeking is available at http://myfwc.com/RECREATION/Hunt_index.aspx or from any of the Commission Offices. The South Region Office is:
South Region (formerly Everglades Region)
Regional Director
8535 Northlake Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33412
(561) 625-5122.

PERMIT QUESTIONS

How does a person get a special-use license?

You may find an application for a special-use license several ways.

1. You may pick up a copy at any of the [District Regional Offices](#) or the West Palm Beach Main Office.
2. You may receive a copy by mail by writing or calling the:
Land Stewardship Division
P.O. Box 24680, 3301 Gun Club Road
West Palm Beach FL, 33416-4680
(561) 686-8800 or (800) 432-2045
3. Fill out **District Form #0830** ([Special Use License](#)) online. Please be aware that Public Use Areas on District Lands generally do not have "improved" facilities. You may want to make special preparations for anticipated "rough" conditions.